



US 93 Corridor Plan: Missoula to Florence

Public Meeting(s) #1

February 14, 15 and 16, 2006

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

RESULTS / ISSUES SUMMARY

Lolo - February 14, 2006
Lolo Community Center

Issues Highlights

Safety

- Unsafe intersections
 - US 93 / Miller Crk – from Miller Crk onto US 93 – no left turn protection
 - Old Hwy 93 / US 93 – no traffic break for vehicles accessing US 93 from Old Hwy 93
 - Tyler / US 93 – unprotected pedestrian crossing
 - US 93 / Mormon Crk Rd. – improper use of center turn lane as merge lane when accessing US 93
- Congested intersections
 - US 93 / Miller Crk – from Miller Crk onto US 93 – long delays accessing US 93 during peak traffic times
 - Old US 93 / US 93 – no protection for turns onto US 93 – causes congestion during peak traffic flow, due to wait needed to get on US 93
- Unsafe parking
 - Illegal parking along US 93 near Weigh Station to access river recreation
- Frequent conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles on US 93 near Lolo School

Roadway design, operation and maintenance

- Improper use of center turn lane as merge lane
- Flooding across roadway at Skyway Dr. and Hayes Creek – causes slick and icy patch
- Insufficient shoulder bike lane width intermittently along the corridor
- Traffic stacking / delays at US 93 / US 12 intersection due to signal at Lolo School
- Dip on Blue Mtn Road at approach to US 93 – unsafe
- Lack of separation between north and southbound lanes - dangerous
- US 93 backups between Lolo and Missoula when closed during accidents or other emergencies
- Congestion on US 93 through Lolo
- Conflicting turning movements at Lolo School intersection

- Center dividers in Lolo are not working effectively
- Limited sight distance at Trader Brothers intersection

Multi-modal options

- Unsafe conditions for bicycle and pedestrians along US 93 between Lolo and Florence
- Unsafe conditions for bicycle and pedestrians along US 93 through Lolo

Growth and development

- High level of congestion on US 93 immediately south of Buckhouse Bridge – all local traffic must use US 93 to make connections between businesses
- New development is reducing viable options for new roadway facilities to serve new areas, provide alternate routes, etc.
- Increasing use of parking areas as frontage roads along east side of US 93 near Lewis/Clark
- High traffic volumes from residential development at Glacier / Ridgeway cause congestion and difficult access to US 93

Roadway capacity and level of service

- Lack of traffic breaks at peak traffic times – 7 to 9:30 a.m. and 3 to 6:30 p.m.
- Congestion at Blue Mtn Road – westbound from US 93
- Traffic stacking is increasing

Environmental

- Deer crossing and congestion near Buckhouse Bridge

Missoula - February 15, 2006 Quality Inn Conference Center

Issues Highlights

Safety

- The four lane undivided sections of US 93 are unsafe due to left turn movements / conflicts
- Traffic speeds are high and seem unsafe
- Conflicting movements in center lane – cause unsafe conditions and accidents
- School bus transportation safety

Roadway design, operation and maintenance

- Retain access to US 93 for existing residences
- Desire to reduce local delivery traffic
- Seek ways to expedite travel, not impede

Multi-modal options

- Desire to reduce ADT volumes of passenger vehicles

- Desire availability of non-passenger vehicle transportation options
- Bike and pedestrians have no safe facility between Lolo and Missoula

Growth and development

- Right of way acquisition needed for possible improvements is becoming more unavailable and costly

Roadway capacity and level of service

- Pursue opportunities to reduce traffic volumes
- Conflicts with increasing truck traffic into “Vans” in Lolo

Environmental

- US 93 traffic volumes are too high; cause congestion, reduced air quality, decrease safety
- Negative impacts from high and increasing traffic volumes – desire to reduce vehicle miles on US 93
- Potential danger to corridor due to use of US 93 as hazardous material route
- Poor aesthetics at gateway entrance to Missoula
- Maintain safety, livability and quality of life when planning US 93 corridor improvements
- Consider needs of aging population; ease of movement, emergency vehicle access, etc.

Florence - February 16, 2006

Florence – Carlton School

Issues Highlights

Safety

- Center lane turning conflicts
- Turning vehicles are in the turn lane too long
- Too much access to US 93
- Unprotected left turns from US 93 are dangerous
- Unsafe and difficult access / egress from US 93 – Mormon Creek, Carlton Creek and Chief Joseph Roads

Roadway design, operation and maintenance

- Ice build up at MP 86.2 curve – water runs across pavement
- Old Hwy 93 maintenance needs attention
- Heavy vehicle crossings across Old Hwy 93 – in a blind gully on Old Hwy 93
- Stopping in through lane on US 93 to make right hand turns is dangerous
- Cars don't move left to allow merging
- Unsafe merge for traffic entering US 93 at County Line Rd. (right)
- People turning right don't like to drive down rumble strips
- Traffic on US 93 shuts down when accidents occur with no option to move around blockage

- Desire to reduce travel demand
- Excessive speed / Insufficient law enforcement
- Road rage is becoming an issue
- “Bottleneck” between Lolo and Missoula
- Difficult visibility of pavement markings during rain
- Road de-icer is causing rust on vehicles
- Lack of traffic breaks to allow safer access onto US 93 – traffic is too fast
- No, or limited emergency vehicle access to US 93 when blocked
- Roadway striping south of Florence is not straight
- Lack of access control at Trader Brothers and Maclay properties
- Conflict between rail track and right of way and US 93 corridor / expansion needs
- Illegal left turn across turn lane into Town Pump in Lolo
- Lack of “real-time” roadway information for travelers
- Southbound right turn onto Mormon Creek Rd. is too tight for trucks
- Southbound left turn queue (turn bay storage) length onto Eastside Hwy is too short to accommodate traffic volumes without backup onto US 93
- Right turn lane from East Side Hwy onto US 93 northbound is too short – constrained by rail line
- Drainage problems at first curve north of Lolo – water is “funneled” through openings in the medians and causes hydroplaning and ice buildup
- Unsafe (too high) speeds at approach to Florence – too high for traffic and pedestrian crossing
- Unresolved maintenance responsibility of the separated bike/ped pathway from Lolo south
- Rumble strips interfere with right turn movements and cause excessive noise
- High traffic volumes with difficult access

Multi-modal options

- Lack of bus service or train service between Florence and Missoula
- Lack of sufficient transit linkage in Missoula, once reached by any possible mass transit
- Shared use of rail right of way - If mass transit were made available, can freight rail be shared with passenger lines
- Rail bed is inadequate for transit use – can’t accommodate high speeds, high number of “at-grade” crossings
- Unsafe bike / ped travel between Lolo and Missoula
- Vanpool schedules do not operate long enough (daily) to meet user needs
- Insufficient number of Park and Ride lots, no lot in Florence, poorly lit if at all, no directional/informational signage

Growth and development

- Negative impacts on US 93 from adjacent land development – insufficient coordination with land use planning process
- Improving the road will encourage further development
- Land use conflicts at US 93 / 8 mile road intersection

- Desire to maintain access control
- Sprawl development / increasing access and safety concerns

Roadway capacity and level of service

- Difficult US 93 access / egress, not enough traffic breaks
- Insufficient capacity to meet traffic volume needs
- Too much access to US 93 – causes safety problems and decreases capacity
- Signals increase morning commute congestion
- Congestion during peak hours
- High traffic volumes with difficult access

Environmental

- US 93 negative impacts to adjacent wetlands; bisects and drainage from roadway
- Consideration for US 93 impacts cultural and historical sites
- Dirt and dust from winter sanding causes air pollution and unsafe bike ped use on pathway as sand lands on the pathway
- Rumble strips interfere with right turn movements and cause excessive noise

PUBLIC MEETING(S) #1 CUMULATIVE COMMENT FORM INPUT

Issues Highlights

Safety

- Undivided four lane section seems dangerous

Roadway design, operation and maintenance

- Conflicting unprotected left turn movement onto Glacier Dr. from US 93 southbound
- Unprotected southbound left turn movement from Miller Creek intersection
- US 93 congestion between Florence and Miller Crk
- Conflicting unprotected left turn movements from US 93 in Lolo
- US 93 corridor is dark and hard to see at night
- Snow stacked on shoulders and sidewalks causes unsafe conditions for bike / peds
- Impact of intermittent portable scale on Hwy 12/US 93 intersection
- High speeds seem unsafe
- Conflicting unprotected left turn movement from US 93 to County Line Road at MP 77
- Unsafe slowing / stopping of vehicles in travel lane when turning right at intersections throughout US 93 corridor
- Difficult / congested access to US 93 at Trader Brothers
- Conflicting left and right turn movements from through lanes on US 93 to 8 Mile Road

Multi-modal options

- Desire for bus service from Missoula to Lolo, Florence and south
- Desire to reduce vehicle traffic on US 93 via other modal options
- Bike / pedestrians have no safe facility between Connection of the separated bike / ped pathway between Lolo and Missoula
- Consider alternate transportation on Bitterroot Spur of MRL line
- Include bike/ped /equestrian routes in transportation corridor
- There could be discussion with Montana Rail Link about “rail banking” the Bitterroot Branch to become the non-motorized connection
- Lack of commuter train from south valley into Missoula

Growth and development

- New development on east side of US 93 from Florence to Missoula will need sufficient access and connections

Roadway capacity and level of service

- Congested traffic flow between Hamilton and Missoula

Environmental

- US 93 noise impacts through communities; Lolo and Florence
- Unprotected wildlife crossings
- US 93 negative impacts to wildlife areas / corridors; noise, separation, danger of strikes while animals are crossing US 93